

CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT[221]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)"b."

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 303.1 and 303.1A, the Department of Cultural Affairs hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 6, "Iowa Community Cultural Grants (ICCG) Program," Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments clarify the restriction against funding religious organizations by this grant program and remove some restrictions related to matching funds and innovative projects.

Public comments concerning the proposed amendments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on November 25, 2008. Interested persons may submit written or oral comments by contacting Kristen Vander Molen, Department of Cultural Affairs, Historical Building, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0290; fax (515)281-6975; E-mail Kristen.VanderMolen@iowa.gov. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Department of Cultural Affairs at (515)281-4228.

Also, there will be a public hearing on November 25, 2008, at 10 a.m. at the above address in the Tone Board Room, Third Floor West, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those relating to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 303.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend rule **221—6.3(303)**, definitions of "Community group" and "In-kind contribution," as follows:

"*Community group*" means an Iowa nonprofit, tax-exempt organization which is open to the general public and established for the promotion and development of one or more of the following disciplines or activities: the arts, history, culture, ethnicity, historic preservation, tourism, economic development, festivals, or municipal libraries. "Community group" shall not include a school, college, university, political party, labor union, state or federal government agency, religious organization, church, convention, or association of churches operated primarily for religious purposes, or operated, supervised, controlled or principally supported by a religious organization, church, convention, or association of churches. "Community group" also shall not include any organization whose primary purpose is to support any excluded type of organization.

"*In-kind contribution*" means a noncash contribution provided by a grantee as a part of the grantee's matching share of a project. ~~In-kind contributions shall not exceed 50 percent of the matching funds requirement.~~

ITEM 2. Amend rules 221—6.5(303) and 221—6.6(303) as follows:

221—6.5(303) Review criteria. Review criteria shall ~~be according to the department's published guidelines and shall~~ include the following minimum criteria:

1. The historical, ethnic, cultural, and tourism value and quality of the proposed project;
2. The number and impact of full- and part-time employment for Iowans created by the proposed project;
3. ~~The innovation of the proposed project and the~~ degree of collaboration with other interested entities;

4. The financial need of the applicant for the proposed project; and
 5. The appropriateness of the project budget, ~~including certification that the eligible organization will supply matching funds that include in-kind contributions of no more than 50 percent.~~
- Additional review criteria are as listed in the published project guidelines.

221—6.6(303) Award amounts. Grant awards shall be made from \$1,000 at a minimum to \$25,000 at a maximum. ~~At least 25 percent of the funds allocated for the ICCG program annually shall be awarded to projects which were not in existence prior to the previous deadline as established by the department. Projects which represent a significant enhancement or an expansion of a previously established project shall also qualify as a new project in consideration of funding.~~ The director reserves the right not to grant all appropriated funds if there is an insufficient number of applications submitted to adequately achieve the purposes of the Act as defined in rule 221—6.1(303).